

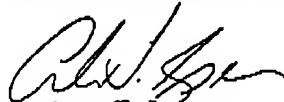
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### REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment amends Claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 11, 13, 16 and 18, and correspondingly cancels dependent Claims 2, 7, 12 and 17. Entry of the Preliminary Amendment prior to calculation of the filing fees and prior to examination is requested.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



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### CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the US Patent and Trademark Office at Fax No. (703) 872-9296 on the date shown below.



Sarah B. Simmons

9-20-04  
Date